WHIRRAKEE

March 2002 Vol. 23 No. 2

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552

Office Bearers for 2001 - 2002

President	Barbara Pelczynska	Melaleuca Ave, Longlea	5439 3075
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Junior Vice President	Darren Green	19 Alamein Court, Golden Square	
Secretary	Bill Holsworth	13 Nabilla Crs, Bendigo	5443 4063
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Whirrakee contacts	Tom Burton	Tannery Lane, Mandurang	5439 3028
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		e-mail: s.wilkens@bendigo.latrobe.edu.au	

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34. These rates include GST.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper. If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm. The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearers listed above, together with the following members: Kate Lottkowitz; Trevor Marshall; Rob Moors, Jan Orr, Stan Pelczynski; Bob Ruddick

Excursions Excursions are conducted irregularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active sub-group:

Mammal Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Front Cover: Photographer: Maurie Lewis

The photo shows a scene from the recent mammal excursion to Turrumburry Weir.
It looks like so much hard work, it would put anybody off.....but not (from left to right) John Robinson, Michael Lewis and Michael ?, John Burtonclay, John Lewis and Jeff Lewis.
What they saw is written in Maurie's report on page 4.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 23, No. 2, March 2002

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
Wildlife Shelters revisited.....	Brenda Cheers	3
Excursion Report and Bird List from trip to Turrumburry Weir, 17-19th January 2002.	Maurie Lewis	4
The Garden as a window of the mind.... Exctract of Tim Flannery's speech	Barbara Pelczynska	5
February General Meeting. Members' Slide Night.	Sabine Wilkens	5
Interesting and Useful Books form a conservation point of View	Barbara Pelczynska	6
From the Mailbag	Elaine Mathison	7
Course: 'Working with Landcare'		8

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles.
Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editors' Note
At the last general meeting it was announced that our librarian Diana Collier had had an accident in Tasmania. Diana has broken her hip and will be out of action for a little while longer. We wish her as speedy a recovery as possible.
Once again, we are appealing for photos from members to include in the Whirrakee. Tom has recently acquired a scanner and with this, including photos should be costless, fast and almost as good as the bromide scans that we have had done of photos until now. Could you please bring in some photos to the general meetings or post them to one of our addresses on the inside front cover (Whirrakee contacts). Whether you are talented photographer or just a happy snapper, your photos will brighten our magazine.

Wildlife Shelters revisited...
A Letter from Brenda Cheers

Maryborough Wildlife Shelter

Thank you for allowing Garry and I to talk to the Bendigo Field Nats about theWildlife Rescue and Information Network (WRIN) and our wildlife shelter in Maryborough. Over the last 15 years doing what we can for sick, injured, displaced and orphaned wildlife as well as trying to educate the public as to the needs of our unique wildlife in their natural habitat has become something of a passion and we find it very rewarding when, after a talk, we are asked many question as we were on that night.
I thought you might find it interesting to know how many calls the WRIN 24hr rescue phone dealt with in 2001. Calls made directly to our emergency help line - 0419 356 433 - for 2001 totalled 1606, the number of calls made direct to members' who had already responded to calls for help for wildlife on previous occasions brought the total of calls received to somewhere in the vicinity of 2000 for the year. The emergency help line total of 1606 calls was an increase of 568 on the total for 2000.

Of those 1606 calls, 725 were for birds, 113 concerned reptiles, 108 possums/gliders, 16 echidnas - one of these clever escapologists took 2 hrs to remove from the car of the person who had picked it up, 353 macropods, 5 tortoises, 5 bats, 1 platypus, 8 koalas, 6 frogs, 3 wombats and 2 antechinus. Twenty six calls concerned introduced animals and 5 were for bees. It was nice to receive a number of calls from people wanting information on wildlife; it shows that more and more people are becoming aware of our special creatures and would like to know about them;
Of course there are always a few calls from those who have moved into a bush area and proceeded to plant trees, vines etc, then complain when wildlife, who have lived in the area for many years, begin to nibble those trees and vines. Information on spiders, snakes, birds and possums is often requested as is the identification of those creatures. A plus from some of these calls was several new members for WRIN, always very welcome as each year we struggle to pay our expenses and at the same time keep costs to members' as little as possible.

Whilst the number of calls for macropods injured on the roads, caught in fences or shot and wounded that ultimately had to be euthanised is always distressing, we can, at least, console ourselves with the fact that their time of pain was reduced, and for some of those, reduced by many many hours, if not days.

WRIN thanks members of the police force who attended some calls when we were unable to, we must also thank the Bendigo Fire Brigade, Parks and Gardens (Bendigo), Bencon (Bendigo) and Animal Control (Bendigo) who responded to calls for help from WRIN on a number of occasions. We hope that their help will continue and that it will make the task of promoting wildlife and its place in our world a little easier.

Here in Maryborough, there was a total of 276 birds/animals brought into my shelter for help in 2001, this number increases most years and I take it as a sign that more people are viewing wildlife through more sympathetic eyes than ever before. As always we receive hundreds of calls from people wanting information on flora and fauna, also an indication that protecting the environment is becoming an important issue.

If any member of the Bendigo Field Naturalists has a question(s) on wildlife, don't hesitate to contact Garry on 54612970. We hope to be attending several of your meetings this year and look forward to seeing familiar faces.

Cheers

WRIN's next meeting

BFNC Clubrooms,
Sunday 7th April,
Meeting starts at 1pm.
The speaker will begin at **2.00pm**.

Speaker: Richard Naisbitt,
Keeper-in- charge of birds of prey (Healesville).
The topic is **"Raptors"**.

There will be a $2.00 charge to assist with expenses and a plate of nibbles would be appreciated.

You will enjoy listening to Richard.

Turrumburry Weir Campout - 17th, 18th and 19th January.

Author: Maurie Lewis

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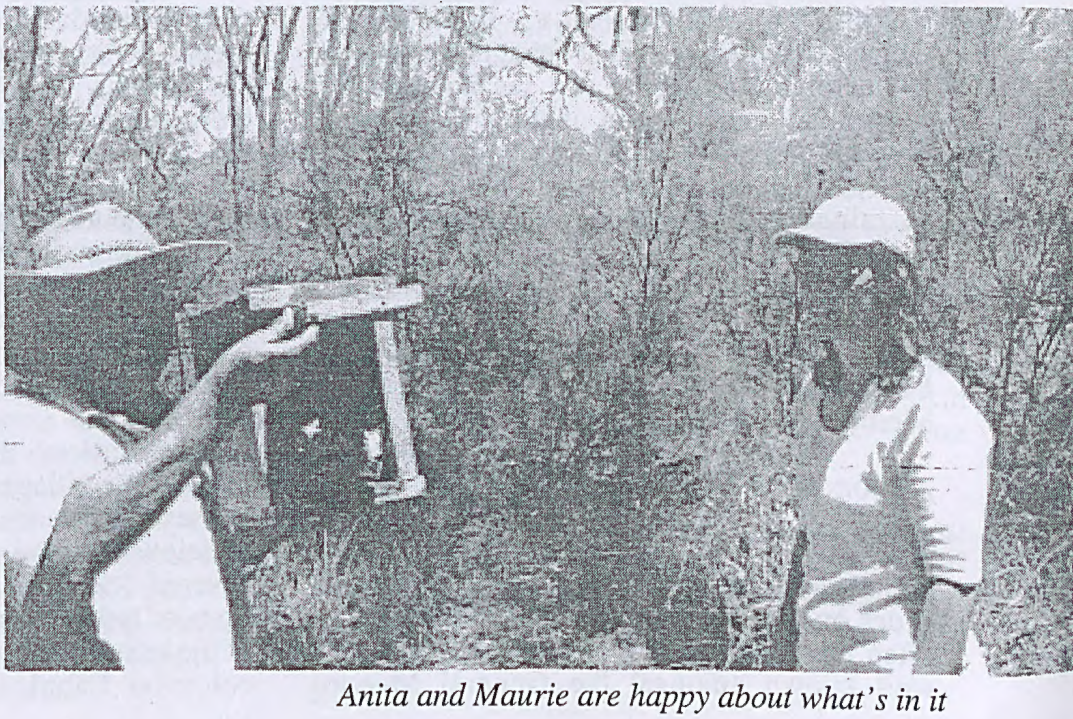
16 people attended. On Friday might we went spotlighting for Barking Owls at Baldwin Bend about 3km from our camp, just down from the Weir.
The walk was led by John Robinson and John Burtonclay. We were looking for Squirrel Gliders and Barking Owls. There were no Squirrel Gliders or Barking Owls present but we saw a Southern Boobook which responded to a Barking Owls tape and we also saw a Tawny Frogmouth, Brushtails, Ringtails and some Hunting Spiders on the ground.
On Saturday morning we went looking for birds. Our members ended up seeing 38 species. After lunch we checked the nesting boxes (there are 10 boxes). Several boxes had fresh leaves and one box contained 2 adult Sugar Gliders and two young (half grown), indicating that the boxes could be suitable hollows for gliders.
A great time was had by all who attended.

Here is the list of birds:
Black Falcon
Brown Falcon
Nankeen Kestrel
Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike
Common Bronzewing
Crested Pigeon
Galah
Long-billed Corella
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Cockatiel
Yellow Rosella
Eastern Rosella
Red-rumped Parrot
Southern Boobook
Tawny Frogmouth
Laughing Kookaburra
Sacred Kingfisher
Azure Kingfisher
White Tree Creeper
Brown Tree Creeper
Fairy Wren
Weebill
Little Friarbird
Blue-faced Honeyeater
Fuscous Honeyeater
Buff-rumped Thorn Bill
Jacky Winter
Crested Shrike-tit
Black-tailed Native Hen
Purple Swamp Hen
Black Duck
Reed Warbler
Night Heron
Rufous Whistler
Willie Wagtail
Grey Fantail
Magpie Lark
Diamond Firetail

John Robinson checking a box



Anita and Maurie are happy about what's in it

The Garden as a Window of the Mind....

On 23 January, Dr Tim Flannery, director of the South Australian Museum, delivered the Annual Australia Day Address (organised by the Australia Day Council) at the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney. The address was wide ranging but its theme was the interrelations of Aboriginal and European cultures and the still common colonial vision of many white Australians in trying to "remake the continent in the image of Europe".

The following extract from the address will strike a chord with many readers....
(Submitted by Barbara Pelczynska)

"Nothing seems to rouse the passions of some Australians so much as disparaging roses, lawns, plane trees and the like. Yet I really do think that they are a blot on the landscape. I used to joke that I'd shout beer all round at my local pub the day someone brought me a plane tree leaf that an insect had actually taken a bite out of. The fact is, that as far as Australian wildlife goes, plane trees are so useless that they might as well be made of concrete. Australia is home to 25,000 species of plants, as opposed to Europe's 6,000 or 7,000. Surely amongst that lot we can find suitable species that will provide shade, and food for butterflies and native birds as well.
To be honest, there is another reason I dislike many introduced plants. If gardens are a kind of window on the mind, I see in our public spaces a passion for the European environment that indicates that we are still, at heart, uncomfortable in our own land. If we can see no beauty in Australian natives, but instead need to be cosseted in pockets of European greenery, can we really count ourselves as having a truly sustainable future adapted to Australian conditions?"

February General Meeting
Members' Slide Night

Author: Sabine Wilkens

It is always a surprise who gets up and presents slides on the first meeting of the year but very often the presenter is a committee member or well known amongst the General Meeting audience.
However, this time, I do not think too many of us had met the first presenter – but what a great way to introduce yourself to the membership! David Judd, who lives near Strathfieldsaye showed some absolutely stunning slides of Sugar Gliders and Phascogales (Tuans), close up and personal. David had obviously been watching these animals intensely; he knew who bosses whom around (Sugar Gliders are bossing the Phascogales in Strathfieldsaye), he told us about the characteristic tail quiver of the tuan (which is just audible to our ears) and which is adopted when the animal unexpectedly meets another or is tense for another reason, about the fighting of the Sugar Gliders and so on, and the slides showed just that.....we could almost hear the quivering tail....
There are quite a number of Tuans at David Judd's property (he said the most he has seen at any one time is seven individuals), perhaps encouraged by the supply of food and shelter. What an opportunity to study this little known species.

This short show was a hard act to follow but Rob and Cynthia Watkins, well-known to most members, did not disappoint. The title of their slide show was "Artic Circle and Beyond". They had spend several months (camping!) in the nordic countries during their summer of 2001.
Animal lovers would have felt left out as very few animals were seen in spite of being summer over there (albeit a short one). Rob said that he praised the dawn chorus on his return....(it is nice to get a reminder every now and then, how special it is).
However, in spite of the sparse fauna, the slides of flora and general landscapes were breathtaking – every one of them (and there were quite a few!!). I do hope that these slides get a wide audience. The days or hours when photography was possible were apparently few indeed but Rob and Cynthia must have spend photographing every second when it did not rain or thick fog covered the landscape.

It is pointless describing these slides of picturesque villages with yellow, red and white houses, of glorious seeweed, dramatic fjords, of delicious-looking cloud berries, of the thick cover of lichen and fungi that carpeted the tundra floor, of the cotton grass and the purple fireweed, of the beautiful blue bell flowers, the traditional colourful Lapplander costume, the ground-

hugging conifers, the heather and all the other breath-taking slides....
It is very interesting that people are allowed to camp anywhere in Norway, even on private property. Not for that reason, I imagine, but in spite of the cold, the constant rain and the fog and resulting problems with photography, the difficulties in communication with the locals and the sheer inconvenience of camping out in a foreign country, Rob said he would go back there any time.
The extraordinary beauty of the ground covers alone makes that understandable.

.....I always run out of superlatives when reporting on the members' slide night.....

Thank you very much, David Judd and Rob and Cynthia Watkins for sharing your slides with us.

Interesting and Useful Books from a Conservation Point of View

Submitted by Barbara Pelczynska

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1. "Indigenous plants for North Central Victoria - a revegetation guide"
Compiled by Greening Australia Victoria. It has been developed and produced by Scott Watson, Project Officer Greening Australia. Published by Natural Resources and Environment.

The guide is very useful for anyone interested in establishing an indigenous garden or in revegetating land with indigenous plants.

It provides reasons why indigenous plants should be used, list of species of plants appropriate for each of the six planting zones into which North Central Victoria is divided and advises on how each species of plants can be propagated, established and managed.

The guide's main limitation stems from the broadness of the planting zones whereby details about specific local vegetation is lost. The missing details, the guide suggest, can be obtained from its recommended local knowledge sources. In spite of this limitation, I personally, have found the guide to be interesting, useful and easy to use and so I strongly recommend it.

2. Bereford, Q., Bekle, H., Phillips, H. and Mullock, J. - The salinity Crisis, Landscapes, Communities and Politics;
University of W.A Press, 2001.

3. Russ, P. - The Salt Traders - A History of Salt in Victoria
Published by:- The Department and Cabinet, State of Victoria, 1995.
(the views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the Government of Victoria)

Because salinity is now a growing problem in Australia and particularly in Bendigo, I have decided to bring the above two books on salinity to your attention.

Both books deal with salinity problems in general, starting with Mesopotamia 3500BC and finishing with Australia - the first book with the Wheatbelt in W.A. & the second with Victoria. Both deal with the politics of development and denial of environmental problems and with the evaluation of contemporary attempts at addressing the issues. Disappointingly, in my opinion, neither book provides satisfactory solutions, as in both books conservation of biodiversity is given lesser importance than economics.

What is interesting is that the gradual destruction of Mesopotamia's natural vegetation into desert and the associated raising of the water table and subsequent soil salinity took thousands of years while it took only 200 years for Australia and in particular Victoria, to create the same salt problems.

The following quotes give an idea of the severity of the salinity and related problems which are affecting all of us now and will continue to do so in the future unless we do something constructive about it:-

"Australia is the greatest clearer of native vegetation in the developed world, and the sixth largest overall" Australian Conservation Foundation.

"Nearly 4,000,000 acres of farmland are lost (worldwide) to excessive salt every year" International Food Policy Research Institute.

.....continued on page 10

From the Mailbag
Author: Elaine Mathison

Each month the club receives a number of newsletters and magazines: some by subscription and some in exchange for Whirrakee. These are available from the club library.

* * * * * * *

NATURE AUSTRALIA(Aust.Museum)
Summer 2001-02

"In Pursuit of the Gurge": Christopher Surman reports on his experiences on Pelsaert Island off Western Australia. Much vital information is gained by the study of regurgitated stomach contents from various seabirds!

"The Serpent Dreamtime": Australia is notorious for its venomous snakes, but 20 million years ago, these had only just arrived from Asia. Fossil discoveries have revealed very different kinds of reptiles from those times.

"Kiwi Killers": why does New Zealand have one of the highest Killer Whale stranding rates in the world? Ingrid Visser's research shows it may have something to do with the peculiar behaviour of this whale population.

"Life in a Wombat Burrow": many burrowing creatures are fairly small, and most larger burrowers have a protein and carbohydrate diet. How do plant-eating wombats find the energy to build their large warrens?

* * * * * * *

PARK WATCH(VNPA)
December 2001

- Box-ironbark Supporters come out in force: almost 500 people came together in October at Paddys Ranges State Park near Maryborough to show their support for the campaign.

- To Nhill and Back: a report on the completion of the Hindmarsh Biolink, an extremely successful project over the last four years.

- Willow Woes: Friends of the Baw Baw National Park have been actively involved in the eradication of Sallow Willow along the valleys.

- Cow Paddock or Park? A report on the impact of cattle grazing on alpine and subalpine plant communities of the Bogong High Plains.

* * * * * * *

THE BIRD OBSERVER(BOCA)
December 2001

- Birding at one hundred and ten: birds seen on a journey from Melbourne to Albany, WA. The highs and lows of highway birding.

- A new home: Chris Tsaros describes how one farmer created a "habitat tree".

- Birding in a cold climate: a birdwatcher from Louisiana, USA, visits Canberra and ticks the 3,308th species on his life list!

February 2002

- Hidden Treasure: the Grange Heathland Reserve, Clayton South, Victoria.

- Marqua Station, N.T.: an atlassing survey on a property north of the Simpson Desert.

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Also received recently:

*Castlemaine Naturalist(CFNC)
February 2002
*Ballarat Naturalist(BFNC)
February 2002
*Geelong Naturalist(GFNC)
February 2002
*Field Nats News(FNCV)
February 2002
*Land for Wildlife News
Nov/Dec 2001
*Sun-Nat(Sunraysia FNC)
Jan-Mar. 2002
*Parks Victoria Annual Report 2000-2001

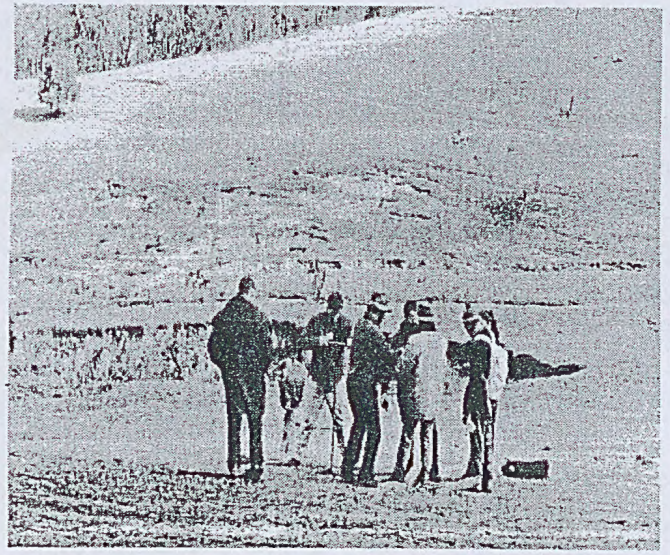
* * * * * * *

For further information you can contact:

Huntly
Clare Claydon (North Central Catchment Management Authority) Ph: 54401820

Creswick
Michelle Butler (NRE: Victorian Landcare Centre) Ph: 53452200

Glenormiston College
Jeff Lawes Ph: 55578226



State Government Victoria
Department of Natural Resources and Environment

NORTH CENTRAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

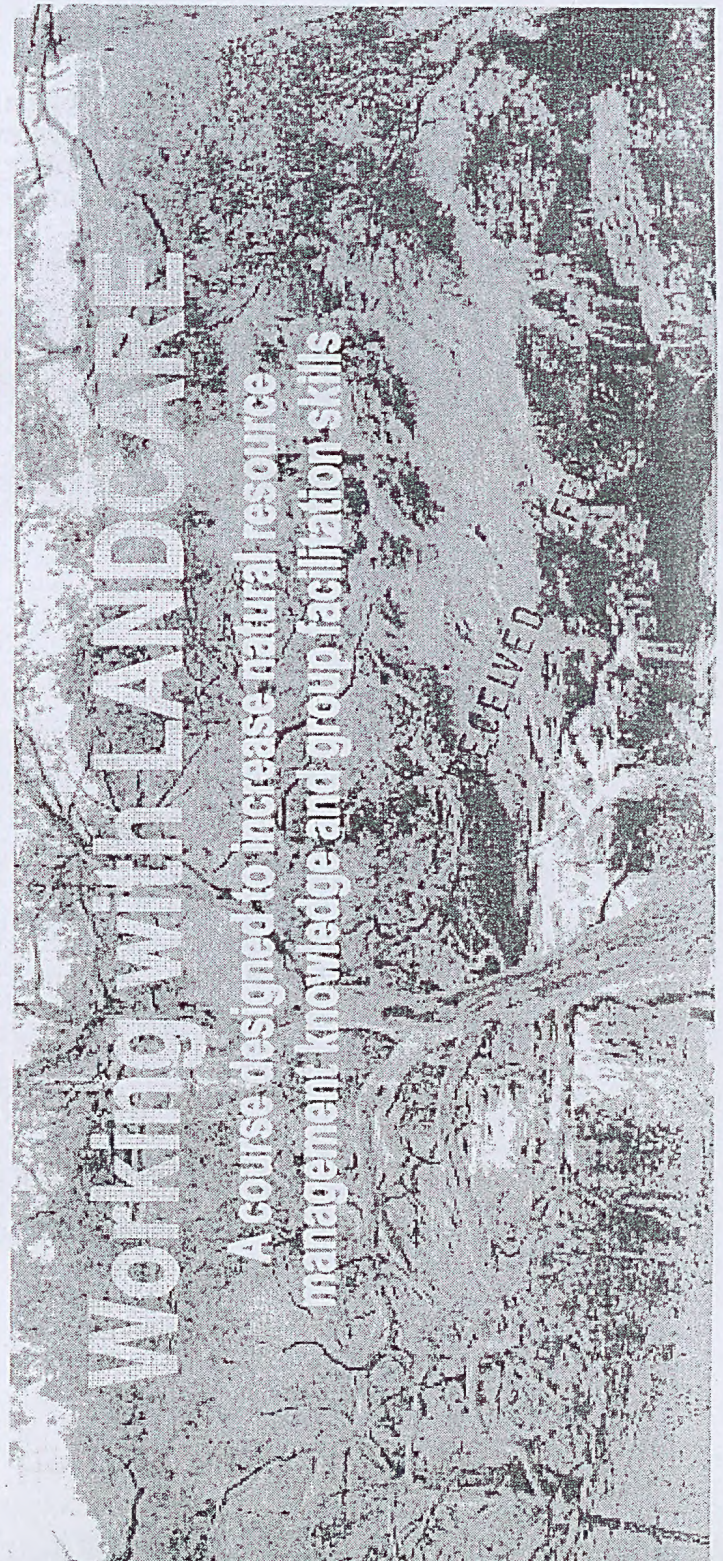
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

"Working with Landcare" course

Course outline

- Sustainable catchment management
- Introduction to project planning & group facilitation
- Land capability and catchment health
- Soils & soil types
- Salinity: causes, prevention & management
- Soil degradation issues
- Pasture management for long term sustainability
- Introduced pasture species
- Native pastures, ecology & management
- Waterways in the North Central region
- Farm streams - rehabilitation methods
- Project planning
- Landcare group facilitation
- Preparing Landcare Action Plans
- Control of pest plants and animals
- Project evaluation / project monitoring
- Preparing funding proposals
- Property management planning
- Vegetation management
- Biodiversity
- Revegetation methods

The course will commence on Friday, March 22nd 2002 and will run over 10 sessions to be held one day per month (weekday or weekend day) and will normally run from 10.00 am – 4.00pm. The course will finish in November 2002. Specific dates will be confirmed.



REGISTRATION

Name : _____

Postal Address : _____

_____

_____Postcode : _____

Phone : _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to register for the 'Working with LANDCARE' course to be based in Huntly. Course commences Friday, 22nd March 2002.

Please find enclosed a cheque for $140.40 which covers course fees, course notes, instruction etc.

Make cheques payable to:
The University of Melbourne
'Working with LANDCARE ' Course

Send your completed application form to:
Jeff Lawes
Glenormiston College
RMB 6200
Terang Vic. 3264

By Friday, March 15th 2002

(Please note – Support with course fees may be available. For clarification on your eligibility for funding support, please contact Mick Davidson, Funding/Landcare Manager, North Central CMA on 54487124)

If you:

- **are a Landcare facilitator, coordinator or project manager**
- **are actively involved in Landcare activities**
- **are a Landcare office bearer**
- **are looking for employment in the Landcare field……..**

THIS COURSE IS FOR YOU!

The 'Working with Landcare' course is a partnership initiative of the North Central Catchment Management Authority, NRE, Victorian Landcare Centre and the University Of Melbourne.

The course is designed for people working in Landcare in the North Central region of Victoria.

The course will:

- Provide skills and knowledge in Landcare principles and natural resource related areas including; soil health, salinity, waterways, pest plants and animals, pastures and revegetation methods
- Focus on sound farming practices that ensure sustainability of precious natural resources
- Cover aspects of Landcare group coordination and facilitation and the development of a sound Action Plan for a Landcare group
- Feature a practical, field-based approach with high quality presenters bringing you the latest information on effective Landcare action and ways to successfully facilitate Landcare groups.

Copyright, The University of Melbourne. The information in this brochure is correct at the time of printing. The University reserves the right to make changes as appropriate. Authorised by Course Coordinator, Glenormiston, Institute of Land and Food Resources, The University of Melbourne, Victoria. 3264. January 2002. PU/go/09.4/6/1

How the course will operate

The course 'Working with LANDCARE' will be conducted in 2002 as a pilot course based at the North Central Catchment Management Authority offices at Huntly.

The program will run for a total of 60 hours over 10 sessions commencing Friday, March 22nd 2002 and finishing in November 2002.

Each session will include a mix of theory and practical activities with a significant proportion of field based exercises.

Participants will be expected to undertake or participate in a project as part of their course.

Assessment will include active participation in the course program, a major project report and other practical tasks during the course. Students who successfully complete the course will be awarded two Diploma-level modules that may be used as credit in further study.

An opportunity to learn more about the natural resource management issues of the North Central region of Victoria as well as gaining skills which contribute to the successful running of Landcare groups.

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Speaker Syllabus for General Meetings 2002– Second Wednesday 8:00 pm

Please check each **WHIRRAKEE** for additional events or changes. If a workshop is planned, it will start at 7:00pm. The speaker will be introduced at 8:00 pm.

Date - 2001	Topic	Speaker
13 March	Botanical Explorers in Australia	Dr Sophie Ducker
10 April	Secret Life of Compost	Catherine Fraser
8 May	The Box-Ironbark Living Records Project	Peter Johnson and Paul Gullan
12 June	Monitoring Changes in Box-Ironbark Forests	Ern Perkins
10 July	Trust for Nature and its Conservation Activities	Michael Looker
14 August	Spineless Wonders - an Introduction to the Importance of Invertebrates	Dr Alan Yuen
11 September	***Annual General Meeting***	
9 October	Grevillea Hunting Around Australia	Neil Marriott
13 November	What has been achieved in Waterways Management in the NC Region	Greg Peters
11 December	**Christmas Dinner**	

.....from page 6....."The Salinity Crisis highlights a global problem with an astonishing case study - the destruction of Western Australia's Wheatbelt by rising salt. It is a beautifully written work that will terrify those interested in humanity's future, and hopefully act as a call to action to save one of Australia's most threatened and most diverse environments." Tim Flannery, Director of South Australian Museum and author of Future Eaters.

"Within 200 years of European settlement, Victorians chopped down their forests and weeded out native perennial grasses for farming; to make the non-European soils more fertile for farming, salt phosphate fertilisers and pesticides were added; technological development in farming machinery and massive irrigation schemes were introduced to boost agricultural output. In addition, the construction of weirs, and locks has tamed rivers and creeks to an orderly flow through irrigated land. Artificial flood control has saved farm crops from periodic inundation and protected the livelihood of many farmers, but it has also prevented natural salinity control and rejuvenation of farmlands with fresh silt from the east and the south" (Peter Russ in "The Salt Traders").

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Mammal Survey Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meeting

Wednesday, March 13 7.30pm
We are very honoured in having Dr Sophie Ducker speak to the Club this month. Her topic will be slightly different to what was advertised previously: "Botanical Explorers in Australia". All welcome.

Wednesday, April 10 7.30pm
The speaker for this month is Catherine Fraser and the topic is Catherine's PhD Thesis "Secret Life of Compost". A very promising talk....

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.
W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals.
It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Natural Resources and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433

WRIN's next meeting
BFNC Clubrooms,
Sunday 7th April,
Meeting starts at 1pm.
The speaker will begin at **2.00pm**.

Speaker: Richard Naisbitt,
Keeper-in- charge of birds of prey (Healesville).
The topic is **"Raptors"**.

There will be a $2.00 to assist with expenses and a plate of nibbles wouldbe appreciated.
You will enjoy listening to Richard.

See also the article by Brenda Cheers, page 3.

Opening Cermony
The BEEC
The Bird Observrs Club of Australia is officially opening the new premises

Saturday 13 April 2002 at 11.30am.

To apply for an invitation, please complete the "Application for Tickets" form (*contact Sabine Wilkens for a copy*) *or simply write how many tickets you require and for whom and send it to BOCA PO Box 185 Nunawading VIC 3131.*

For non-Melbourne members:
In conjunction with the opening ceremony, BOCA is holding a weekend of activities for non-Melbourne members. On Saturday afternoon, there will be two study meetings and a chance to socialise with other members. On Sunday there will be two outings: The western Treatment Plant (Werribee Farm) and Yellingbo.

We would love to see as many country member attending as possible. Billets have been offered by local members to keep the costs to a minimum.
To apply for the program, please contact Sabine Wilkens for a copy of the form or simply write down your name and address and indicate if you need accommodation for the weekend 13/14 April and for how many people. Also indicate if you want to attend the Werribee Farm excursion or the one to Yellingbo Reserve. Post this information to the address given above.

We are hoping to have various aspects of the Club's activities on display and are looking for items of interest. Photos, equipment, examples of branch activities etc would be most welcome. If you think you have something of interest, please contact Jill Plowright either at Nunawading on 03 9877 5342 or 1300 305 342, or at home on 03 9890 6162.